

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for manufacturing a molded detergent composition, the method comprising steps of:
- (a) mixing a hydrated component and a hydratable component to provide a mixture:
 - (i) the hydrated component having a melting point below about 100° C and comprising a transhydration product of an anhydrous material and water of hydration, the anhydrous material having a melting point greater than about 300° C;
 - (ii) the hydratable component comprising water, if present at all, at a level of less than about 2 wt.% based on the weight of the hydratable component; and
 - (iii) the hydratable component being a component which successfully competes with the hydrated component for at least a portion of the water of hydration; and
 - (b) molding the mixture to provide a molded detergent composition having a melting point greater than about 30° C.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydrated component comprises a hydrated salt.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the hydrated salt comprises a hydrate of at least one of sodium silicate, lithium silicate, potassium silicate, sodium metasilicate, sodium phosphate, calcium phosphate, magnesium phosphate, sodium pyrophosphate, sodium tripolyphosphate, sodium sulfate, sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, sodium sesquicarbonate, sodium bisulfate, sodium thiosulfate, sodium percarbonate, and mixtures thereof.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydratable component comprises at least one of nonionic surfactant, anionic surfactant, and mixture thereof.

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5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of mixing further comprises mixing butoxy ethanol with the hydrated inorganic component and the hydratable component.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the hydrated component to the hydratable component is between about 5:1 and about 20:1 based on an anhydrous weight of each component.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the hydrated component to the hydratable component is between about 8:1 and about 15:1 based on an anhydrous weight of each component.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of molding comprises extruding the mixture.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of molding comprises casting the mixture.

10. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of mixing comprises mixing an effective cleaning amount of an enzyme in the mixture.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein the enzyme is present in an amount of between about 0.01 wt.% and about 10 wt.% based on the weight of the mixture.

12. A method according to claim 10, wherein the enzyme comprises at least one of protease, lipase, amylase, cellulase, and mixtures thereof.

13. A method according to claim 10, wherein the enzyme comprises a mixture of protease and cellulase.

14. A method according to claim 1, wherein the mixture comprises at least one of a material sensitive to heat.
15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the material sensitive to heat comprises at least one of fragrances, dyes, preservatives, and enzymes.
16. A molded detergent composition comprising:
a result of mixing and molding a composition comprising:
(a) hydrated component and a hydratable component;
(b) the hydrated component having a melting point below about 100° C and comprising a transhydration product of an anhydrous material and water of hydration, the anhydrous material having a melting point greater than about 300° C;
(c) the hydratable component comprising water, if present at all, at a level of less than about 2 wt.% based on the weight of the hydratable component;
(d) the hydratable component being a component which successfully competes with the hydrated component for at least a portion of the water of hydration;
and
(e) the molded detergent composition having a melting point greater than about 30° C.
17. A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, said molded detergent composition being provided in the form of block.
18. A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, said molded detergent composition being provided in the form of pellets.
19. A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, wherein the hydrated component comprises a hydrated salt.

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20. A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, wherein the hydrated salt comprises at least one of sodium silicate, lithium silicate, potassium silicate, sodium metasilicate, sodium phosphate, calcium phosphate, magnesium phosphate, sodium pyrophosphate, sodium tripolyphosphate, sodium sulfate, sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, sodium sesquicarbonate, sodium bisulfate, sodium thiosulfate, sodium percarbonate, and mixtures thereof.
21. A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, further comprising about 1 wt.% to about 20 wt.% of an antimicrobial agent selected from at least one of quaternary ammonium compounds, phenolic derivatives, active halogen containing compounds, and mixtures thereof.
22. A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, wherein the hydratable component comprises at least one of nonionic surfactant, anionic surfactant, and mixture thereof.
23. A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, further comprising glycol ether.
24. A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, further comprising butoxy ethanol.
25. A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, wherein the weight ratio of the hydrated component to the hydratable component is between about 5:1 and about 20:1 based on an anhydrous weight of each component.
26. A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, wherein the weight ratio of the hydrated component to the hydratable component is between about 8:1 and about 15:1 based on an anhydrous weight of each component.

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